



CITY OF SAN RAMON

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December 11, 2014

Chair Don Snyder and Commissioners
Contra Costa County Planning Commission
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

Re: Proposed Creekside Memorial Park Cemetery (7000 Camino Tassajara)

Dear Chair Snyder and Members of the Commission:

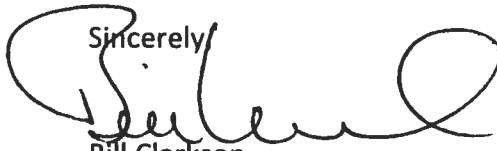
Earlier this week the San Ramon City Council heard testimony from a large number of residents opposed to the Creekside Memorial Park Cemetery proposed in Tassajara Valley. More than 200 speaker cards were submitted by individuals desiring to address the Council. Following completion of the agenda item, the City Council voted to oppose the concept of a commercial cemetery in the Tassajara Valley. The vote was based on the information presented to us and on the views of the residents expressed not only at the December 9 meeting but also at previous meetings. The motion directed that I forward a letter to the County Planning Commission explaining the basis of our opposition.

Our position is based primarily on the following seven issues:

1. The groundwater availability for this project is grossly inadequate. There is growing public awareness of the severity of our groundwater shortage as reflected in recent actions of the Legislature regulating individual wells.
2. The proposed commercial cemetery would have an irreversible, destructive impact on the agricultural character of the Tassajara Valley and its residents.
3. The project would result in destruction of major ridgelines and construction of structures completely out of character with the rural nature of the surrounding area.
4. The significant level of residential growth in the nearby area has led to greater public awareness of the Hidden Valley Open Space and the severe impact this massive project would have on the enjoyment of San Ramon open space.
5. There has been significant growth in the availability of cemetery space in the surrounding areas while at the same time a growing public preference for cremations vs. full body burials.

6. The EIR traffic studies are inadequate with no recognition of the unique traffic characteristics of a funeral procession.
7. The project would likely lead to further speculative development in the area.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our views when the cemetery project comes before the Planning Commission. Please include this letter in the record of proceedings for the project.

Sincerely,

Bill Clarkson
Mayor

Cc: Board of Supervisors
San Ramon Councilmembers
City Manager
City Clerk